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Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
on this 25th day of August, 2000.

s/ Jan Hostasa  
Jan Hostasa

Attorney Docket No. 24764A

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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Brian W. Ables et al.

Serial No.: 09/593,550

Filed: 06/14/2000

For: String Binders and Method for Making  
Same

Group Art Unit: Unknown

Examiner: Unknown

### INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(b)

Assistant Commissioner For Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR 1.56, Applicant brings the art documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 to the attention of the Examiner for consideration in connection with the examination of the above-identified application.

No representation is made that the art cited constitutes prior art or that the art cited is the most relevant art. The references are cited so that the Examiner will be aware of material known to the applicant. The Examiner is encouraged to consider the cited references and make an independent determination of materiality.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within the period specified at 37 CFR 1.97(b)--i.e., (1) within three months of the filing date of the national application, (2) within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR 1.491 in an international application, or (3) to the undersigned's knowledge, before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, whichever event occurs last.

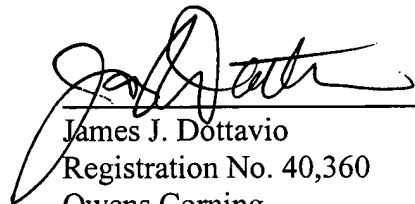
All of the cited art documents are in the English language.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner confirm consideration of the cited documents by initialing the attached Form PTO-1449 and returning a copy of the initialed form to Applicant.

If any fees are due in connection with the filing of this statement, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) in the event that the period specified at 37 CFR 1.97(b) has elapsed, please charge all required fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0568.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 25, 2000

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James J. Dottavio", is written over a horizontal line.

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